S A N A T A N

Pratnakirttimapavrinu
(Let us attempt to unravel the glorious past – *Rigveda*)

Edited by
Dr Alok Tripathi

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Megaliths, Chatra district (source Harendra Sinha 2013)

South **A**sian **N**etwork of **A**rcheologists/academicians for **T**echnical and **A**rtistic **N**urturing

> *"If you don't communicate your ideas to other people,*
> *the ideas don't come alive."*
> *- Marcus du Sautoy*

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EDITORIAL

Dear Colleagues

It is a mixed feeling of happiness with some degree of hesitation in placing this issue of Sanatan in front of you, when India celebrates 150 years of first find of stone tools at Pallavaram by Robert Bruce Foote. Two years back 150th year of the Archaeological Survey of India passed without any significant activity and Sanatan (60: 21) had flagged the issue. There is a prehistory branch, dedicated to prehistoric research in the country but nothing is heard from there about Sesquicentennial of prehistory in India.

It is not only a matter of celebration, but reflects the state where no one seems to be concerned with any thing. For last few years there has been no path breaking activity—excavation, find, research, conference, publication—in the field of archaeology. Those in position have no interest in promoting the discipline but to complete their tenure. Young researchers, full of enthusiasm, look for guidance and support to realize their dreams but get frustrated with this situation all around.

Silence is becoming the reality in every field. The decline is visible in every sphere but its still not too late. Time has come when all those not in agreement with this situation rise and start moving towards heights they have planed to. There are professional academic bodies to provide a platform for all those who wish their voice to be heard but all seems to be failing. We are aware that Sanatan also could not be regular and active during this period. Reasons may be listed but none can justify. Authorities need to be reminded and enthusiastic workers be provided every opportunity to build up the environment they need, to progress. We would continue to discuss several pertinent issues louder than earlier. Sharing news and views, critical analysis with open hearts and minds, planning for systematic research is more relevant now than ever for study and preservation of our culture and heritage.

Editor

RESEARCHES

Exploration in Chatra District in Jharkhand

In the third week of May 2013, a team of 'Heritage Jharkhand' consisting of Jitendra Tiwary, Shashi Singh, Sushant Pathak, Prakash Kumar and Nutan Sinha headed by Harendra Sinha explored inaccessible areas of Chatra district in Jharkhand. The tour resulted in discovery of painted rock-shelters and megalithic sites in the area.



Chatra : Archaeological remains

A rock-shelter, locally known as Bhim Gupha, contains prehistoric paintings. An area of approximately 20 x 13 m. on the ceiling of the shelter is painted. The designs include mainly geometric patterns, but animals like deer etc. are also painted. The paintings are either in white or dark brown colour. It is likely that kaolin and ochre would have been used for painting



Bhim Gupha: Rock-shelter

these pictures which are locally available. Most of these paintings are now, unfortunately, covered under a layer of vermillion. Mixed with oil, it is applied over the original paintings by the local women folk in course of their worship.

Modern accretions need to be removed and paintings require immediate chemical conservation. The NGO also utilized this opportunity to inform the local people about their importance. Convinced with the team they have assured archaeologists not to cause any more damage but to take care of their heritage.



Bhim Gupha: Rock-painting



Bhim Gupha: Grooves on rock



Bhim Gupha: Vermillion applied over painting

Two, man-made, ground and very smooth depressions/grooves were also noticed on a huge rock under the shelter which might have been used in the process for painting purposes. These should not be confused with cup marks.

Another discovery in the district is a number of megalithic sites. In course of the excavation of a drain by local administration, some megalithic



Chatra : Megalithic site



Chatra : Megaliths





burials have been exposed and the grave goods are visible in the section. In Lutidih village on Chatra-Ranchi Road, near Bagra Nore, some megaliths were found exposed. Two pot burials found exposed in the section contained charred bones. Good quantity of pottery were also seen around the pot burial. It was also observed that after placing the pot in the pit, it was covered with layers of small stones. At this level itself a menhir was also erected. In some graves more than one pot burial, at different levels, were also seen. All the remains were duly documented.



Lutidih: Pot-burial and menhir exposed in section

- Harendra Sinha
Ranchi, Jharkhand



APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Archaeologists in Archaeological Survey of India

54 posts of Assistant Archaeologists were advertised in Aug. 2009. The interviews were conducted in Sept. 2010 but the process was held up due to litigations in courts. After three years now the SSC has declared the names of successful candidates. For details see the website of SSC.

Rank	Name	Sex	Category
1	Bodele Niraj Ganesh	M	SC
2	Sachin Kumar Tiwary	M	UR
3	Vinay Kumar	M	OBC
4	Tsering Phunchok	M	ST
5	Nihildas N.	M	SC*
6	Vinay Kumar Gupta	M	UR
7	Liju A.	M	OBC*
8	Shewta Sharma	F	UR
9	Remya V.P.	F	SC*
10	Niraj Kumar Mishra	M	UR
11	Vibha Pandey	F	UR
12	Devaraju S.M.	M	UR/OH
13	Gangadevi M.R.	F	UR
14	Komal Kant Sharma	M	OBC
15	Priyanka Singh	F	OBC
16	Jayanth V.J.	M	UR
17	Poonam Vind	F	OBC*
18	Vinay Kumar Roy	M	OBC
19	Ranimole S.J.	F	OBC*
20	Prasanna Kumar N.	M	OBC*
21	Mohd Qamar Alam	M	UR
22	Yathees Kumar V.P.	M	OBC*
23	Gudi Suryaprakash	M	OBC*
24	Mohd Azhar Sabir	M	OBC*
25	Prachi Kushwaha	F	OBC*
26	Nagarajappa S.	M	UR
27	Aprajita Sharma	F	UR
28	Manisha Singh	F	UR
29	M. Prasanna	M	OBC*
30	Prema K.C.	F	SC*

31	Anil Kumar Singh	M	OBC*
32	Sandhya Dwivedi	F	UR
33	Aniruddh Bhardwaj	M	UR
35	Mohan Lal	M	SC
36	Asif Hussain	M	OBC
37	Sudha Nomi Velip	F	ST
38	Rajesh Yadav	M	OBC
39	Veeraraghavan N.	M	OBC
40	S. Vetriselvi	F	OBC
41	V. Muthu Kumar	M	OBC
42	R. Ramesh	M	OBC
43	Krishna Pal Singh	M	OBC
44	Abinash Mohanty	M	UR/OH
45	Govind Singh Meena	M	ST
46	Sajjan Kumar	M	OBC
47	Suresh Chand Meena	M	ST
48	Ashis Ranjan Sahoo	M	OBC
49	Reema Kumari	F	OBC
50	Virendra Kumar	M	SC
51	M. Saranaya	F	OBC
52	Sujana Stephen	F	OBC
53	Nageshwarrao Malla	M	OBC
54	Smitha S. Kumar	F	SC
55	Sonam Spalzin	F	ST
56	Vijimol P.K.	F	SC
57	O. Ilamurugan	M	SC
58	Ravi Kumara J.	M	SC
59	Shriram Bayadwal	M	ST
61	Umakanta Bhoi	M	ST
62	Chalwadi Kishor Sidram	M	SC
63	Tikam Tenwar	M	SC
64	S. Nantha Kumar	M	SC
65	Ambily C.S.	F	ST
66	Raju Kanaparthi	M	SC
67	Jampani Kamala Hassan	M	ST
68	Jitendra Singh	M	SC

This selection has started a discussion about the process and Recruitment Rules. The matter would be discussed in forthcoming issues. Readers may also take active part and can send their views for inclusion.

Director-General in Archaeological Survey of India

Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India had advertised the post of Director-General in Archaeological Survey of India, in the month of November 2012. Tenure of Dr Gautam Sengupta, was completed on 19th January 2013. It is appreciable that the Government of India completed the selection process in a period of six months. Scrutiny of the applications was done by three member expert committee and five candidates were shortlisted. Prof. K.K. Basa, Prof. Vasant Shinde, Prof. Ravi Korisettar, Dr Rakesh Tewari and Dr B.R. Mani were called for Personal Talk on 10th May 2013. Outcome of the personal talk is awaited.

Alike Assistant Archaeologist, qualifications and Recruitment Rules for the post of Director-General of Archaeological Survey of India are also a matter of serious concern and need a open debate.

SEMINARS / CONFERENCES

8th National Conference on Marine Archaeology of Indian Ocean Countries, Dona-Paula, July 2013

Society for Marine Archaeology, in association with National Institute of Oceanography, Archaeological Survey of India, and National Centre for Ocean and Antarctic Research is going to hold ‘8th National Conference on Marine Archaeology of Indian Ocean Countries’ at National Institute of Oceanography, Dona-Paula, on 1-2 July 2013. This conference is dedicated to Dr S.R. Rao, founder President of Society for Marine Archaeology and a pioneer in marine archaeology in India.

The main themes of the conference are - marine archaeological research in Indian Ocean countries and their contribution to science; and Harappan archaeology. Role of history and archaeology in facilitating maritime archaeological researches, and recent underwater archaeological investigations would also be important aspects for discussion.

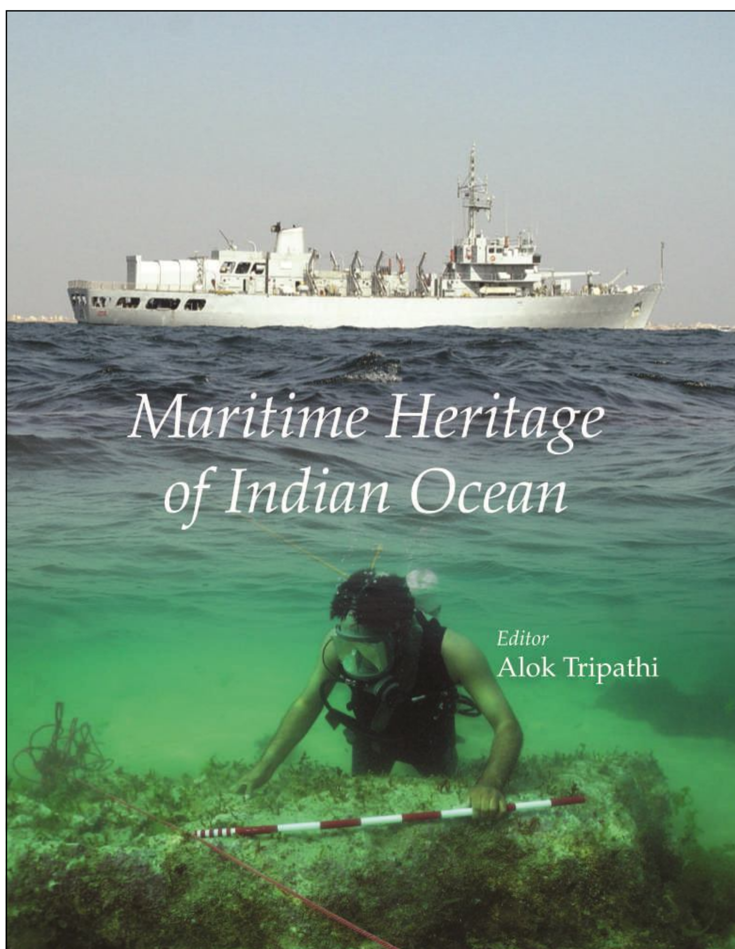
Members of the society and those interested in participating may send their confirmation, abstract, registration form and travel plan latest by 10th June, 2013 to societymarinearchaeology@gmail.com .

PUBLICATIONS

Maritime Heritage of Indian Ocean

(ed.) Alok Tripathi, 29 cm. Hb, xii+352, ISBN: 978-81-88934-99-7

India is located most prominently in the Indian Ocean and with her central location she has natural advantage of having easy interactions with the East as well as the West. As a result several ports developed all along her varied and long coast. Numerous coastal archaeological sites contain magnificent records of the trade and interactions that India had with ports located on Indian Ocean rim, since antiquity. Seas surrounding her from three sides have played a vital role in the history and culture of the country. Though some consider it barrier but in reality it was a medium for connections, interactions and changes. Ships sailing with winds on waves besides transporting passengers and goods also carried plants, diseases, medicines, technology, philosophy, art, religion, and culture, with them. Present knowledge about the extent seas influenced the past is still limited.



Much of it is not known in absence of written records and only source to reconstruct authentic maritime history is archaeology. Archaeology needs material evidence. These evidences, lying in the depths of Indian Ocean, have not been explored and studied adequately.

Underwater Archaeology Wing in the Archaeological Survey of India in collaboration with Indian Navy regularly conducted International Seminar on Marine Archaeology. ISMA had

got recognition among prestigious international events in the field of underwater archaeology. Proceedings of International Seminar on Marine Archaeology have added useful information on underwater cultural heritage and maritime history. These seminars provided a forum for established scholars and upcoming researchers from different countries and areas to came together to discuss recent researches in the field of maritime archaeology and history.

Proceeding of the 3rd International Seminar on Marine Archaeology held in 2007 has just been published. The volume contain 16 articles contributed by eminent archaeologists from Australia, India, Israel, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and USA.

Maritime activities—trade and exchange—had started as early as Bronze Age, when Meluhan ships landed on Mesopotamian ports. Mesopotamian records mention Harappan ships, mariners and goods. Maritime history of the Arabian Sea is generally thought of in terms of five periods of activity. Prof. Gregory L. Possehl, a renowned expert on Indus Civilization, dealt with the archaeological evidence for the Bronze Age (ca. 2500-1700 BCE) when the peoples of the Indus Civilization established contact by sea with Mesopotamia, Magan and Dilmun. He illustrates - how situation changes during Early Harappan and Harappan period, contacts with Mesopotamia and Magan, items of trade, and about their ships. He also touched later Indian Ocean trade.

Prof. J. Mark Kenoyer, has discussed ‘Marine and Riverine Trade of the Indus Cities’, an important but yet untouched area for underwater archaeology in the region. Besides discussing chronology he also delves upon Indus shipping, boats and boat building.

Archaeological Survey of India and Indian Navy regularly conducted joint excavation in Indian waters. Commodore Arvind Singh discussed about offshore and underwater operations conducted in Arabian Sea off Dwarka. Dr Alok Tripathi presented results of the most scientifically conducted excavations at Dwarka. It is expected that the results based on scientific study and analysis of finds would settle all the debates and doubts to rest.

Shri Sundaresh and his colleagues give an overview of marine archaeological explorations on west coast of India. They write about the

works carried out by the National Institute of Oceanography. It has to be realized that it is necessary to have all available information and examine different views and opinions to find the truth or to reach on any conclusion. Prof. P.J. Cherian and his colleagues inform about the excavation carried out at Pattanam.

Finds from the site suggest extensive trade contacts. Dr Uzi Dahari discusses finds from the Red Sea and the Gulf of Eilat, a connecting route between the Mediterranean and India in the Roman and Byzantine period. He draws attention to the economic and cultural relationship between India and the Far East on the one hand and the lands of the Mediterranean Sea on the other resulting from knowledge and use of monsoon winds and the triangular sail, by the Nabatean Arabs. This relationship was of immense importance and of far-reaching influence in the Hellenistic, Roman and Byzantine periods.

While discussing the Dhow as cultural icon in the Indian Ocean, Prof. Eric Gilbert draws attention to how dhows have been embraced as symbols of regional cultural coherence.

Prof. Himanshu Prabha Ray writes about Chinese ceramics in Indian Ocean trade and argues that while trade provided an important motive for sea-travel, it was not the only reason for travel by sea. She suggests for studying trade within a wider perspective of seafaring activity and maritime networks. While discussing Zheng He's Treasure Ships and Chinese maritime policy of the Ming dynasty, Ms Sarah Ward argues that China had sufficient resources, technology, tradition, economy, environment and ideology to build colossal vessels, and to use technology offensively.

Dr M. McCarthy discussing on 'Shipwrecks and their Management in Western Australia' informs that how, partly due to the paucity of underwater archaeological remains, practitioners have focused on underwater historical archaeology and have spread into quite modern research areas, including iron, steel and steamships, sunken aircraft and the like. He also tells about site management and public access programmes. India is rich in underwater archaeological heritage and needs to learn from the experiences of other countries and take serious steps to preserve underwater cultural heritage before it is destroyed or looted.

Ms G.A. Darshani Samanthilaka deals with certain artefacts recovered from the 17th century VOC armed merchantman *Avondster*, which sank in Galle Harbour in 1659. She identifies these objects, which were found in the stern of the shipwreck as surgeons' chest.

Shri K.Y. Gamini Saman has been conserving ceramics recovered from the sea. He discusses the long and complicated process of conservation. He also shares information about experiments made and experience gained during initial treatment, removal of stains and concretion, desalination, joining, filling and colouring to bring an object to its original look.

Dr M. McCarthy also tells about port related structures such as piers, jetties and wharves, and the offshore moles and groynes on the Australian Indian Ocean coast. Discussing his excavations around port-related structures he indicates that they can be considered as pointers to underwater archaeological sites. It would motivate Indian archaeologists to take up study, documentation and research on similar structures scattered all along the Indian coast.

Shri Rasika Muthucumarana tells about how maritime archaeologists protected a 19th century steel-hull shipwreck from vandals and succeeded in converting it in a major diving locality with the help of local divers in Sri Lanka.

Shri Ricardo L. Favis discusses about the protection of common heritage of humanity and its importance of bringing history alive for future generations. He deals with the provisions and issues related to UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. India has voted in favour of the Convention and has adopted its 'Annexure', with slight modifications, for implementation in Indian waters.

Published by the Organising Committee of ISMA and Sarada Publishing House, this volume is another contribution by the Archaeological Survey of India and the Indian Navy towards developing underwater archaeology.

WORKSHOPS

Workshop on Ancient Indian Coins, July 2013, Nasik

Indian Institute of Research in Numismatic Studies, Nasik has invited applications on plain paper giving details for 12 seats for 'Introductory Workshop on Ancient Indian Coins' to be held from 16th to 20th July 2013.

The emphasis of this short course is on identification of various ancient Indian coins. Course will mainly focus on punchmarked coins, and coins of Satavahana, Western Kshtarapa, Kushana and Gupta dynasties. Course also includes some practical sessions, wherein the participants will work on the actual coins. Topics covered under the course include introduction to ancient Indian coins and their types; types of symbols, their placing and relation with coin typology; and practical sessions on identification, classification and, decipherment. On completion of the workshop, the participants will be awarded a certificate.

Last date for registration is 10th July 2013. Further details regarding course fee, boarding and lodging facilities may be obtained from - 02594 220005/6, 9527996163, iirns1984@gmail.com .

COURSES

16th International Course on Wood Conservation Technology, May-June 2014, Oslo

A course on the conservation of cultural heritage made of wood is to be held at Riksantikvaren, Oslo from 21 May to 27 June 2014. The course would be conducted by International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (ICCROM), Riksantikvaren - The Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway, and Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway.

The aim of the course is to promote cultural understanding and research in the field of wood conservation. The course covers a wide range of inter-disciplinary topics and is directed towards professionals who have been

working for some years within the field of wood conservation. Theoretical and practical aspects of wood conservation are given equal consideration. Exercises and demonstrations are organized during the excursion.

The main objectives of the course are to give participants the theoretical and practical knowledge essential for diagnosing the causes of deterioration and for selecting the most appropriate methods of conservation and restoration of wood; to extend the knowledge of participants beyond their own professions for a broader understanding of different aspects and approaches to wood conservation; to bring people with various professions from different countries and cultures together for a mutual learning experience, drawing on different experiences, practices and approaches to wood conservation and use of wooden materials.

The curriculum includes six distinct but interconnected units covering aspects of: properties of wood; factors affecting the decay of wood; principles of conservation at a global level; preventive conservation; conservation of objects and painted surfaces including archaeological wood and furniture; conservation of wooden buildings and structures, including wood working tools and machinery. The course will include a one-week onsite workshop and a study tour to selected wooden heritage sites in Norway.

The course concludes with a written exam. A full time presence during the course period is required to be allowed to sit for the exam and to obtain the course certificate.

Participants will be responsible for their round trip travel costs to Oslo, Norway. In order to cover living expenses and transport within Oslo during the course, participants should plan for a minimum allowance of about 1200 USD for the 6 weeks.

Applicants should be mid-career professionals with a minimum of three years work experience in wood conservation. The number of participants is limited to 20. The working language of the course is English. Application form may be send through e-mail. Applications should reach ICCROM by 30 September 2013. Further information regarding the course may be obtained from www.iccrom.org

CALL FOR PAPERS

Centre for Indological Studies, Assam University is going to publish a monograph entitled "The Manuscript: Facets of Indian Culture". Director, Centre for Indological Studies, Assam University, Silchar invites original research paper in 6000 -7000 words in English. Papers may be sent to projitkumarpalit@gmail.com before 30 July.

CELEBRATIONS

150 Years of Prehistory in India

On the occasion of 150 years of discovery of stone tools by Robert Bruce Foote at Pallavaram, on 30th May 1863, Department of Museums, Government of Tamil Nadu in collaboration with Sharma Centre for Heritage Education, Chennai organized an Special Exhibition on Robert Bruce Foote Collection of Stone Tools at the Centenary Exhibition hall, Government Museum, Chennai. On this occasion Prof. M.L.K. Murty delivered Robert Bruce Foote memorial lecture. Sharma Centre for Heritage Education, Chennai also organized 'Robert Bruce Foote Memorial Workshop on Prehistory and Lithic Technology'.



Chennai: Stone tools discovered by Robert Bruce Foote at Pallavaram (photo S. Pappu)

Notes for Contributors

Sanatan is one of the fastest medium to share information on recent researches and expert views with a large number of professionals in related fields. Time to time we have informed our members about the contributions to *Sanatan*. With every issue our members are increasing and we keep getting communications in this regard.

Sanatan is an OPEN ACADEMIC FORUM where one can share any news or views which one feels would be of use to people in the field or researchers in allied subjects. You may send information on diverse subjects and in various formats. They may include —

Research articles
Reinterpretations
Comments on vital issues
News of general interest
Reports on academic events
Short notes on recent discoveries
Important publications
Views and photographs
Information on seminar and conferences
Invitation for contributing papers, etc.

It attempts to have frequent exchange of information among all those working in related fields for their benefit and in turn for the development of disciplines. All the members are therefore requested to keep sending their contributions for inclusion in bulletin and the annual issue.

Send your views, information, materials to sanatan08082008@gmail.com for sharing.